

Serial No. 10/690,733

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 was originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 5 of copending Application No. 10/690,732.

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 2, 6, 7 and 9-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, claim 2 is deleted, and claims 1 and 10 are amended which are substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 2 and claims 1 and 10, respectively, so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the rejections of claims 1 and 10 should be withdrawn, and the amended claims 1 and 10 should be allowable.

It is further submitted that the claims 6, 7, 9 and 11 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 which is believed to be allowable.

In addition, claims 12-14 have been allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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